

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2012 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 6**

#### **Fall Update # 1, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery**

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

#### **Fall Season Assessment**

The preseason fall chum run projection, based on a historical relationship between summer chum and fall chum salmon runs, is greater than 900,000 fish. That level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities, personal use, and provide a commercial harvest.

The Lower Yukon River districts switched to fall season management on July 16. The Lower Yukon Test Fisheries began fall operations on July 16, and the Mountain Village Test Fisheries began fall operations on July 17. The Pilot Station sonar has been counting fall chum salmon passage since July 19.

Fall chum salmon typically enter the Yukon River in erratic fluctuations with large pulses of fish occurring over several days often followed by several days of very low passage. As a result, inseason abundance projections for fall chum salmon are highly variable until approximately the first quarter to midpoint of the run past Pilot Station sonar project, which, on average, occurs between July 31 and August 8.

#### ***Lower Yukon River Cooperative Drift Test Fishing*** – YDFDA, ADF&G

The cumulative CPUE for the project through July 22 was 405.56, which is above the historical median of 97.97 for that date.

#### ***Mountain Village Drift Test Fishing*** - Asacarsarmiut Traditional Council and BSFA

The project began on July 17. The cumulative CPUE for the project through July 22 was 206.18, which is slightly below the historical median of 211.01.

### ***Pilot Station Sonar Project - ADF&G***

The Pilot Station sonar began counting fall chum salmon on July 19. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through July 22 is 107,418 fish, which is below the median passage of 43,552 fish for that date.

### **Fall Season Management**

#### ***Fall Commercial Salmon Fishing***

At this time, three fall commercial fishing periods have been announced in District Y-1 and one period in District Y-2. Additional commercial fishing periods will be dependent upon inseason run strength assessment and market interest.

#### Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:

Period #1: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 12 hours (10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 16), remainder of District Y-1, 9 hours (1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 16).

3,307 fall chum/20,727 lbs. (\$0.75/lb.), 0 coho/0 lbs. Incidental harvest (not sold): 29 Chinook salmon.

Period #2: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 12 hours (10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. July 19), remainder of District Y-1, 9 hours (3:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight July 21).

24,233 fall chum/162,493 lbs. (\$1.00/lb.), 0 coho/0 lbs. Incidental harvest (not sold): 18 Chinook salmon.

Period #3: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 9 hours (10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. July 23), remainder of District Y-1, 6 hours (1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. July 23).

No data available is available at this time.

#### Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:

Period #1: District Y-2, 6 hours (3:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. July 22).

13,727 fall chum/87,165 lbs. (\$0.00/lb.), 0 coho/0 lbs. Incidental harvest (not sold): 21 Chinook salmon.

#### ***Subsistence Salmon Fishing***

Coastal District: The Coastal District is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller

Districts 1, 2, 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

The Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 4-A (from  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato,

and Koyukuk. Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is currently open for a 48-hour period that will close at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 24. Fall chum salmon drift fishing above Stink Creek opens August 2.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A will be open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for one 48-hour fishing period from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 27.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 29, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will be open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays.

In District 4, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing in the Koyukuk River is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C: Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice. The department will notify fishermen by July 26 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C.

In an effort to protect Chinook salmon as they pass through this long section of river, Subdistrict 5-D has been divided into three separate areas.

Subdistricts 5-D-Lower (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream to the Hadweenzic River and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the communities of Stevens Village and Beaver. Subdistrict 5-D Lower is open for one 36-hour subsistence salmon fishing period which is scheduled to close at 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 23. Subsistence salmon fishing will then be closed until further notice.

Subdistricts 5-D-Middle (from the Hadweenzic River upstream to 22 Mile Slough and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the community of Fort Yukon. Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice.

Subdistrict 5-D-Upper (from 22 Mile Slough to the U.S./Canada border and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the communities of Circle, and Eagle. Subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed and will remain closed until further notice.

The department will notify fishermen by July 24 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedule for each portion of Subdistrict 5-D.

District 6: Consistent with management actions taken in Districts 1-5, measures are being implemented in Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and the Old Minto Area in order to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement.

Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the downstream mouth of Wood River): This area includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana. Subsistence fishing will continue to be restricted to fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute, closely attended while in operation, and all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive. Gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches will not be allowed to be used. These gear restrictions will be in effect during the next subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 23, until 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 25. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 27, gear restrictions will be discontinued in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B.

The Old Minto Area: Subsistence fishing in the Old Minto Area is currently open and will continue to be restricted to fish wheels only. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute, closely attended while in operation, and all Chinook salmon caught must be returned to the water alive. Gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches will not be allowed to be used. These gear restrictions will be in effect for the remainder of the ongoing subsistence salmon fishing period scheduled, until 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25. Beginning 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 27, gear restrictions will be discontinued in the Old Minto Area.

Subdistricts 6-C (from the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River): This area includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. The personal use salmon fishing is closed and will remain closed until further notice in an effort to conserve Chinook salmon. The department will notify fishermen concerning the next personal use salmon fishing period and schedule for Subdistrict 6-C once the need to conserve Chinook salmon is over.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at (907) 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at (907) 949-1320 or the Fairbanks ADF&G office at (907) 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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